



**Pan American
Health
Organization**



**World Health
Organization**

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE

Americas

54th DIRECTING COUNCIL

67th SESSION OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE OF WHO FOR THE AMERICAS

Washington, D.C., USA, 28 September-2 October 2015

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**OPENING REMARKS BY THE OUTGOING PRESIDENT
OF THE PAHO DIRECTING COUNCIL, DR. SERGIO SARITA VALDÉZ
COORDINATOR OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION OF THE MINISTRY OF
PUBLIC HEALTH OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

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Honorable Members of the Head Table
Members of the Diplomatic Corps
Delegates
Representatives of the Media
Ladies and Gentlemen:

On behalf of the Minister of Public Health of the Dominican Republic, Dr. Altagracia Guzmán Marcelino, I wish to express thanks for the support and assistance we have received while chairing the Directing Council of the Pan American Health Organization, a position that I am honored to pass on formally in this session.

Major challenges lie ahead on the agreed Health Agenda, including recurrent issues such as dengue in the Americas, violence against women and families, dementia in older persons, road safety, immunization, and of course, the harmful effects of climate change, among others.

Finally, the terrible consequences of poverty oblige us to unite in order to tackle the complex health problems in the Region of the Americas.

Together, we can improve the quality of health and longevity of our people.

Thank you very much.
